

REMARKS

Applicant hereby traverses the current rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of such in light of the remarks and amendments contained herein. Claims 30-34 are newly added. Claims 21-34 are pending in this application.

Status of Amendments

On April 27, 2005, the Applicant filed an Amendment after the Final Office Action that was mailed on February 25, 2005 (hereinafter the "Final Action"). The Examiner, in the Advisory Action dated May 13, 2005, indicated that the amendments would be entered. However, the Examiner also indicated that the amendments did not place the claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant believes the remarks below and the newly added claims herein place all claims in condition for allowance. Newly added claims 30-34 are supported by the original application. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claims 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,461 to Bellinghausen et al. (hereinafter "Bellinghausen"). It is well settled that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. *See* MPEP § 2131. Moreover, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, "[t]he elements must be arranged as required by the claim." *See* MPEP § 2131, citing *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, in order for a reference to be anticipatory under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to a claim, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim." *See* MPEP § 2131, citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicants respectfully assert that the applied reference does not satisfy these requirements.

Prior to this Amendment, claim 21 required "a second circuit board for distributing power and control signals;" and, claim 26 required "means for distributing power and control signals." In the Advisory Action, the Examiner opines that the application is not in condition for allowance because "control signals is not a positively claimed element and 'blade elements that each include responsive circuitry' are disclosed in column 3, lines 3-10 [of

Bellinghausen] with DC and AC voltages.” (Advisory Action, pg 1). The Examiner, in the Advisory Action, does not assert that Bellinghausen teaches control signals. Rather, the Examiner only argues that Applicant has failed to positively recite control signals. Although the Applicant believes that “control signals” were positively recited before this amendment, the Applicant has further amended the claims in an effort to more clearly present the limitation “control signals.” As such, the scope of the claims has not been altered. Claim 21, as amended, requires control signals distributed by a second circuit board to blade elements coupled to a first circuit board. Claim 26, as amended, requires control signals distributed by a means for distributing. As such, control signals are positively recited.

Accordingly, Bellinghausen does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 21 and 26. Claims 22-25 and 27-29 respectively depend from base claims 21 and 26 and, hence, inherit all limitations of their base claim. Claims 21-29 are not anticipated by Bellinghausen.

Newly added claim 30 requires “wherein said control signals are bi-directional control signals being one of data signals and power signals that can be passed back and forth through one or more of said blades.” (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully point out that Bellinghausen also fails to teach this claimed limitation. Instead, Bellinghausen discloses “Contact 10, which is oriented 90 degrees relative to the other contacts, is the positive DC voltage supply, and contact 14,...is the negative supply. Contacts 12 and 16 are connected to an AC voltage supply.” (Bellinghausen col. 3, lines 6-10). Bellinghausen goes on to disclose “bridge rectifier 8 is connected to the second member by inserting the male contacts (10, 12, 14, 16) into the female contacts of the second member.” (*see* Bellinghausen col. 4, lines 49-53). In view of such, Bellinghausen does not teach control signals passed back and forth through blades. Rather Bellinghausen discloses only male contacts inserted into female contacts. In fact, Bellinghausen wholly fails to teach blades being in electrical communication with one another at all. Moreover, Blades is silent as to the passing of data signals. The Applicant believes that this limitation is not inherent within the disclosure of Bellinghausen, as Bellinghausen does not discuss the transfer of data between components and defines contacts only in terms of voltage.

Accordingly, Bellinghausen does not disclose each and every limitation of claim 30. Claims 31-34 respectively depend from base claim 30, and thus inherit all limitations of their base claim. Claims 30-34 are not anticipated by Bellinghausen.

In view of the above amendments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 200315828-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 1, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

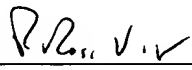
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